

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159017

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON GAO REPORT USAID ASSISTANCE TO
BRAZILIAN EDUCATION

FRIDAY'S WASHINGTON POST SURFACED TWO WEEK OLD GAO REPORT
UNDER HEADLINE "BRAZIL NEED FOR AID QUESTIONED." FOLLOWING
PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED BUT NO QUESTIONS AROSE:

Q: A RECENT GAO REPORT RECOMMENDS CONGRESS CONSIDER WHETHER
BRAZIL NEEDS FURTHER U.S. ASSISTANCE. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT
IS THE U.S. POLICY ON AID ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL?

SUGGESTED REPLY: AID HAS ADVISED CONGRESS THAT BRAZIL'S
RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS HAS PERMITTED A SUBSTAN-
TIAL REDUCTION IN U.S. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. THE TOTAL
AID PROGRAM PROPOSED FOR FY-74 IS DOLS 6 REPEAT DOLS 6
MILLION, COMPARED TO DOLS 37 REPEAT DOLS 37 MILLION IN
FY-73 AND DOLS 244 MILLION IN THE PEAK YEAR OF FY-66.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 159017

Q: WHAT DOES THE U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CONTEMPLATE FOR

FY-74?

SUGGESTED REPLY: THE U.S. ASSISTANCE IS NOW MOSTLY IN THE FORM OF TECHNICAL HELP FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, GENERAL EDUCATION AND THE TRANSFER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THERE IS ALSO A HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM, INVOLVING MEDICAL AND CHILD WELFARE AND RURAL HEALTH SYSTEMS. THE U.S. ASSISTANCE IS PREDICATED ON USG AWARENESS THAT BRAZIL'S CURRENT NEED FOR FOREIGN LENDING HAS BEEN ASSUMED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES.

Q: THE GAO REPORT ALSO QUESTIONS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE BRAZILIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THIS?

SUGGESTED REPLY: THE U.S. ASSISTANCE IS TO HELP BRAZIL MODERNIZE ITS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY AID. WITH SUCH ASSISTANCE BRAZIL HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS SYSTEM WHICH THE GAO REPORT DOES NOT SUFFICIENTLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.

A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS IN THE REPORT ARE PREDICATED ON THE NOTION THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL AUTOMATICALLY CARRIES WITH IT A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF U.S. CONTROL OR LEVERAGE WHICH SHOULD ENABLE AID TO INFLUENCE THE BRAZILIAN PROGRAM IN DIRECTIONS THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM TAKE. THIS NOTION, PERHAPS, STEMS IN PART FROM A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. POLICY OF MATURE PARTNERSHIP TOWARDS THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

Q: WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS?

SUGGESTED REPLY: EDUCATION IS A HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAM OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AND AS WELL AS OUR ASSISTANCE THERE. WE BELIEVE IT IS A KEY TO BRAZILIAN DEVELOPMENT. THE GAO REPORT ADDRESSES ITSELF TO ONLY TWO EDUCATION LOANS WHICH TOTAL DOLS 82 MILLION.

Q: WHY DOES AID CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 159017

EDUCATIONAL AREAS?

SUGGESTED REPLY: BRAZIL'S CONTINUED RAPID GROWTH MORE THAN EVER CREATES A DEMAND FOR KNOWLEDGEABLE CITIZENS WHO AS TECHNICIANS CAN LEAD THE COUNTRY. U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAS ENABLED U.S. UNIVERSITIES TO HELP SISTER BRAZILIAN UNIVERSITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, TO PROVIDE GRADUATE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING AT THE MASTER'S DEGREE LEVEL. WHILE

MORE BRAZILIAN RESOURCES ARE BEING ALLOCATED FOR THIS EFFORT, THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN THIS AND OTHER AREAS SUCH AS EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVELS, AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY. THESE PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE TO BE OF IMPORTANCE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE GAO RECOMMENDATION THAT DOS AND

AID SHOULD IDENTIFY PRECISELY AND OBJECTIVELY THAT POINT AT WHICH A COUNTRY, SUCH AS BRAZIL, NO LONGER REQUIRES U.S. CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE?

SUGGESTED REPLY: THERE IS NO CLEAR AND SIMPLE WAY TO DETERMINE WHEN A COUNTRY NO LONGER NEEDS CONCESSIONAL AID. MANY FACTORS HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED SUCH AS ECONOMIC LEVELS ATTAINED, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND RATE OF GROWTH JUST TO MENTION A FEW. ALSO, THE POLITICAL FACTORS HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. WE HAVE AS NOTED EARLIER BEEN REVIEWING CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL AND NO CONCESSIONAL LOANS ARE PROGRAMMED FOR FY 74. ROGERS

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